



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

DEC 26, 2017

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye
Begaye-Nez Administration
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear President Begaye:

The purpose of this letter is to extend an invitation to the Navajo Nation to conduct government-to-government consultation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 regarding legacy uranium mining impacts in the Grants Mining District, specifically within the San Mateo Creek Basin area. As mentioned in EPA Region 9's letter to you dated December 19, 2017, the EPA anticipates proposing the San Mateo Creek Basin Uranium Legacy Site (the site) to the National Priorities List (NPL) around March 2018. The purpose of the consultation would be to provide information to the Navajo Nation's leadership about the listing, to solicit input, and also to request a letter of support for the NPL proposal of the site from the Navajo Nation.

The consultation would be conducted in accordance with the *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes*. EPA's anticipated timeline for the consultation and coordination would be from the date of this letter until January 31, 2018. During this time, EPA would request a meeting with Navajo Nation leadership for consultation and will continue to work at the staff level to provide information to the Navajo Nation's environmental staff.

We value the observations, insights and recommendations of the Navajo Nation's leaders and members, and pledge to remain engaged as we continue to investigate the groundwater in the San Mateo Creek Basin area. Should you have any questions or

concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at (214) 665-6701, or your staff may contact LaDonna Turner at (214) 665-6666 or turner.ladonna@epa.gov. If you have any questions about the consultation process, please contact Randy Gee, Region 6 Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs, at (214) 665-8355.

Sincerely,



Carl E. Edlund, P.E.
Director
Superfund Division



Enrique Manzanilla
Director
Region 9 Superfund Division